

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9631

INFO AMEMBASSY ROME

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AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

AIDAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: GOC REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT

REF: N'DJAMENA 1318

1. DCM AND CDO MET MAY 30 WITH SEC GEN MFA FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION GOC REQUEST FOR AIRLIFT FROM FAYA LARGEAU TO BARDAI.

2. DCM TOLD SEC GEN THAT GOC REQUEST HAD BEEN REPORTED TO WASHINGTON. WHILE WASHINGTON VIEWS AWAITED, EMB/ CDO HAD GIVEN SOME THOUGHT TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS. EMB HAD FIRST CONSIDERED POSSIBILITY USING DAO DC-3 OR OTHER DC-3 AVAILABLE LOCALLY, FOR EXAMPLE, BUT FOUND THAT THIS NOT PRACTICAL AS DAO DC-3 AND PROBABLY MOST OTHERS LACKED SUFFICIENT STRESS FOR CARGO TRANSPORT; NEED TO PREPOSITION FUEL AT FAYA LARGEAU; CURRENT LACK DIESEL FUEL NECESSARY FOR TRUCKS TRANSPORT FUEL FAYA; AND SEVERE SHORTAGE DIESEL FUEL DRUMS. COSTS OF RENTING SUITABLE

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PLANE COMMERCIALLY EUROPE OR SENDING FROM US ARE

VERY HIGH AND SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS LAST RESORT. DCM /CDO RECOMMENDED THAT GOC CONSIDER UTILIZING DC-4 OF CHADIAN AIR FORCE OR AIR CHAD. EMB ROUGH ESTIMATE, PREPARED BY DAO, SUGGESTS THAT DC-4 MIGHT BE ABLE CARRY ABOUT 4.5 TONS PER TRIP, AND THAT FLYING TIME N'DJAMENA/ FAYA LARGEAU/BARDAI/N'DJAMENA WOULD BE SLIGHTLY LESS THAN EIGHT HOURS. IF FUEL COSTS OR OTHER FINANCES ARE PROBLEM, EMB/CDO WOULD BE PLEASED CONSULT WITH GOC ON POSSIBILITIES RESOLVING SUCH QUESTIONS. EMB/CDO WILLING CONSIDER OTHER SOLUTIONS, BUT WOULD HOPE GOC WOULD CAREFULLY STUDY POSSIBILITY USING ONE OF ITS OWN DC-4S AS THIS UNQUESTIONABLY WOULD BE FASTEST SOLUTION.

3. IT EMB UNDERSTANDING, SECGEN WAS INFORMED, THAT WHILE DC-4 COULD BE USED FOR FAYA LARGEAU/BARDAI OPERATIONS, IT NOT SUITED FOR OPERATIONS OTHER SMALL AIRPORTS IN BET, SUCH AS FADA AND OUNIANGA.

4. CDO EMPHASIZED IMPORTANCE THAT AID/W ATTACHES TO FIRST-HAND OBSERVATION AND REPORTING ON PRESENT OR POTENTIAL HUMAN-NEEDS SITUATION IN INTERIOR OF COUNTRY. CDO REITERATED FACT THAT SUCH ASSIGNMENT HAD BEEN LEVIED ON CDO BY AID/W FOR SOME TIME PAST AND THAT CDO WAS DESIROUS OF MAKING SUCH VISIT ASAP HOPEFULLY IN COMPANY OF APPROPRIATE GOC OFFICIALS, NOT ONLY IN CONNECTION WITH PRESENT GOC REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE FOR BARDAI AIRLIFT, BUT TO SURVEY FOOD STOCKS AND VERIFY SITUATION IN SUCH PLACES AS FAYA, FADA, ZONAR, ETC.

5. AS ALTERNATIVE TO AIR TRANSPORT TO PLACES OTHER THAN BARDAI, DCM OBSERVED THAT ALTHOUGH RAINY SEASON VIRTUALLY UPON US, IT WOULD BE WELL TO STUDY POSSIBILITY OF OVERLAND TRANSPORT TO SELECTED AREAS. CDO ADDED REMARKS TO EFFECT THAT CDO HAD WORKED WITH LOCAL CARE AND WFP REPS BEGINNING MORE THAN TWO MONTHS AGO CONCERNING IDEA OF ORGANIZING FOOD DISTRIBUTION SCHEMES UNDER DIRECTION OF EITHER OR BOTH THESE ORGANIZATIONS. AND THAT PROPOSALS TO THIS END HAD BEEN SUBMITTED WITHOUT RESPONSE BY BOTH THESE ORGANIZATIONS TO FORMER GOC DROUGHT COORDINATOR. CDO CONCLUDED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT PERHAPS GOC MIGHT WISH STUDY POSSIBILITY OF UNDERTAKING SMALL SCALE LOCAL TRANSPORT OPERATION IN SHORT PERIOD (FOUR TO SIX WEEKS) REMAINING BEFORE RAINS.

6. COMMENT: FROM INFO PROVIDED BY CONFIDENTIAL SOURCES, BELIEVE THAT DC-4 OF CHADIAN AIR FORCE CAPABLE OF UNDERTAKING PROGRAM NOTED ABOVE. SAME CONFIDENTIAL

SOURCES STATE THAT TWO FLIGHTS PER WEEK WOULD BE SCHEDULED WITHOUT UNDULY HAMPERING CHADIAN MILITARY USE OF PLANE. SHORT OF FRENCH DECISION TO UTILIZE THEIR MILITARY TRANSALLS BASED N'DJAMENA, THIS APPROACH SEEMS MOST FAVORABLE TO US FOR RELIEF BARDAI. RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST CAN SET TONE OF US RELATIONSHIP WITH NEW REGIME, AND EMB/CDO THEREFORE RECOMMEND THAT WE BE AS RESPONSIVE AS WE ARE ABLE. IF GOC DECIDES ATTEMPT USE DC-4, REQUEST WE BE AUTHORIZED RESPOND POSITIVELY TO ANY GOC REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN FINANCING FUEL COSTS. (PRESUME THAT QUANTITIES CAN BE ESTIMATED MORE ACCURATELY IN WASHINGTON THAN WE CAN UNDERTAKE HERE.) WOULD WELCOME ADDRESSES PROMPT RESPONSE THIS QUESTION AND ANY ADDITIONAL COMMENTS OR SUGGESTIONS. LITTLE

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